them into a whoJe view cf Jife is the problem with which Henry James beccrres Increasing/, c:e~ccLp"ed in the succeeding works.

In *Roderick Hudson,* James emphasizes the reed for intellectual refinement for an artist, and spiritual refinement for well-meaning patrons, Without detachment and self-control, art becomes self-defeating; without *ar>* awareness cf the sanctity of human life and liberty, benei'dence becomes ireddiing interference. In *The American,* Henry James equates the states ard gradations of refinement with nobility of character, "high civilisation", magnanimous self-sacrifice and renunciation. The international theme helps James to throw the virtues of American character into sharp relief in the 'mores' of European environment. When he wrote *The American,* James was still a "concentrated patriot" and not a forthgoing cosmopolite: the novel is generally regarded as James's defence of his countrymen.[5]* Christopher Newman is the representative of his race. His sterling qualities are the inherent qualities of all noble Americans. James's early attitude towards Europe was quite in conformity with the American tradition, for it was one of prejudice against, and distrust of, transatlantic "high civilisation".

James's idea of human refinement is projected in this novel which he himself calls a "romance". His depiction of Europe as wicked and pretentious should not, however, be interpreted to mean that James regards evil as a special attribute of Europe and virtue as the special monopoly of America. James was aware of the all-pervading nature of evil in human life. Evil is omtnipresent, and James was aware of the evil in American life and was as vehemently critical of it. Evil which comes in the way of human refinement is nevertheless a necessary experience, for it is the knowledge of evil which matures and perfects th« refining process. But for his encounter with evil, Newman would be not have acquired the moral and spiritual refinement necessary for his final gesture of magnanimity. Life is a

kind of quest for purification or refinement. The exposure of James's heroes and heroines to evil undoubtedly involves their human individuality in pain and suffering, but the outcome, the refined consciousness, represents an ultimate victory. Newman comes to Europe as an epicure bent on enjoying the treasures of Europe, but leaves it as a stoic with a knowledge of evil and with a refined moral sense.. This refinement of Newman "produces a fineness of response that counterbalances the anguish of humiliation and loss.-[3]